



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

California State Office  
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W1834  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
[www.ca.blm.gov](http://www.ca.blm.gov)



Date: November 4, 2013

### **Bureau of Land Management California State Office Report to the California State OHV Commission**

#### **California Desert District Presentation (Power point)**

**United States Department of Navy (DoN), Marine Corps/Johnson Valley Update** – No update. I do not expect any changes/updates by the meeting date. Waiting for congressional action.

**CCMA** - No update to provide at this time, updates will be submitted at the meeting.

#### **Fort Sage Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) – Eagle Lake Field Office**

The Fort Sage Special Recreation Management Area is located in the high desert region of northeastern California, about 45 miles north of Reno, Nevada. The recreation area consists of approximately 22,000 acres of public land that is managed primarily for off highway vehicle use and winter deer range. Vehicle use within the recreation area is limited to designated roads and trails to ensure that the two primary uses remain compatible throughout the future.

The Bureau of Land Management has designated the approximately 90 miles of routes within the recreation area to be used for motorcycle, ATV and 4wd use depending on the width of the trail. The routes traverse a wide variety of terrain including flat, sandy, high desert sagebrush country and rocky, steep canyons and gulches.

In addition to off highway vehicle use, the Fort Sage Mountains are utilized by hikers, horseback riders, rock climbers, hunters and wildlife photographers. Visitors are attracted to the area because of its many unusual weathered granite boulders, volcanic outcrops, expansive desert vistas and good opportunities for viewing wildlife and wild horses.

Recently the Fort Sage Trailhead Development project was completed. With OHV grant funding and BLM funding, BLM was able to install a new kiosk, vault toilet with a parking pad and cable and post at the existing OHV staging area within the Fort Sage OHV area. We also removed the old 25 year old vault toilet.



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

California State Office  
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W1834  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
[www.ca.blm.gov](http://www.ca.blm.gov)



We were also able to install 25 new style BLM signs and complete 40 miles of trail maintenance as well as monitor 90 miles this year within the Fort Sage OHV area utilizing the grant funding under the Ground Operations.



### **Palm Springs Field Office Youth Crew, Puts Tread Lightly! in Motion**

In 2013, the Palm Springs South Coast Field Office (PS-SC FO) Youth Crew and BLM staff delivered 10 educational Junior Ranger program events promoting Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) education and safety, reaching more than 1,900 youth and adults. The outreach events were funded through a State of California Department of Parks and Recreation Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Recreation (OHMVR) Division Education grant to the Palm Springs Field Office.

The Junior Ranger Program is an interactive youth program featuring trail ethics and safety messages in a fun engaging manner. Young riders are encouraged to become good land stewards by traveling responsibly on designated roads, trails or areas, being considerate of other trail users, wearing appropriate safety gear, and making good choices to not damage the land resources.

The program goals were accomplished by:

- Offering a traveling Junior Ranger Program emphasizing safety, trail etiquette (good citizenship), natural resource protection, and land ethics to the visiting public.
- Engaging student participation in various activities, including trying on safety gear: helmet, eye



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

California State Office  
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W1834  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
[www.ca.blm.gov](http://www.ca.blm.gov)



protection, gloves, boots, long pants, and long-sleeved shirts; skits, button making and taking a Tread Lightly! interactive quiz.

The Junior Ranger Program uses the "On the Right Trail" OHV curriculum, and the Tread Lightly and National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) messaging to promote responsible recreation and create a positive future for Off-Highway Vehicle Recreationists.

Events reached recreationists from the ages 1 to 100, with particular attention to novice riders from 7 to 17 years. The Junior Ranger Program's skits, interpretive displays, and activities fosters a better understanding of where to ride, safe riding habits, and essential gear to inspire appreciation of public lands, as well as the interest and awareness to explore the outdoors safely.

The Junior Ranger presentations and activities extended from Riverside to the Coachella Valley: Citizen Science Week- Riverside Metropolitan Museum; Coachella Valley Wildflower Festival- Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument; City of Palm Desert Safety Fair; Mecca Boys and Girls Club- Desert Hot Springs; Boy and Girl Scout meetings, Portola Community Center, Palm Desert, CA; and the Earth Day Celebration- Gilman Historic Ranch County Park. Participants rotated through stations about trail courtesy, choosing the right path, safety gear, and Tread Lightly! responsible recreation. Children were given a pre- and post-quiz to gauge their understanding of the OHV safety message.

Maps and brochures were provided showing riding opportunities on public land and participants received Tread Lightly! activity books, buttons and pencils, and most importantly, an increased awareness of safe riding habits, and the inspiration to get outside to ride and hike.

Partner program support included assistance from the BLM funded HIKE Youth Crew; a team of five Tread Lightly-trained young adults aged 18 to 25 who developed the activities and displays for the Junior Ranger program. BLM staff from the California Desert District and Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office, including law enforcement rangers, interpretive specialists, and outdoor recreation planners, assisted at the Youth Crew outreach events.



# United States Department of the Interior

## BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

California State Office  
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W1834  
Sacramento, CA 95825  
[www.ca.blm.gov](http://www.ca.blm.gov)



Students from Susan B. Coombs School in Banning avidly watch as Palm Springs-South Coast LE Ranger Javier Cortazar, demonstrates the strength of OHV safety gear at the Gilman Gilman Historic Ranch 2013 Earth Day event.



A future rider tries on safety gear at the Gilman Historic Ranch Earth Day Event.